

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 1862.

The exports of produce, merchandise and specie from this port during the past week exceed the imports by about a million and a quarter dollars. Had it not been for the importation of American stocks, of which we have no published record, the balance of trade would have been in our favor to that extent. The following were the principal articles imported:

Dry goods	\$1,176,000	Lead	\$50,046
Peruvian bark	50,608	Steel	50,608
Quinine	25,454	Tin	49,780
Wool	25,133	Sugar	32,394
Wool	96,238	Cotton	72,386
Wool	39,940	Cotton	389,573
Wool	179,436	Fancy goods	51,975
Wool	43,291	Hemp	94,156
Wool	31,302	Molasses	81,823
Wool	24,210	Rice	22,371
Wool	30,653	Sugar	532,565
Wool	45,517	Tin	36,702
Wool	65,518	Tin	

Of these articles a certain number will continue to be imported under any circumstances. Such are sugar, coffee, tea, hides and drugs. The new duty which is being laid on them by Congress is therefore strictly a revenue duty; it will come out of the pockets of the consumer. It ought to be high, in order to yield proper amount of revenue. Other articles imported can be produced as well here as abroad, and the additional duty to be laid upon them is therefore a double effect of adding to the revenue and stimulating production at home. Such articles are nearly all kinds of dry goods, brandy, iron, tobacco, lead, steel, hemp and fancy goods. It is expected the new tariff will have the effect of reducing the importation of these articles very materially. As they will advance in price in consequence of the increased duty, consumption will be checked, and, on the other hand, domestic production will be developed and increased. There never was a point on which the people were more unanimous than they are in favor of a high tariff. The old free trade party, which was so long dominant in this country, has disappeared altogether. Recent events have convinced every one that it is idle to expect to win the friendship of foreign nations by throwing open our markets to their goods; and, on the other hand, the states in which the nation is at present placed render it very unsafe for us to spend money in the purchase of goods from abroad as well as manufactured at home. Many years, probably a whole generation, will elapse before our importation of foreign goods again reach the figure which they touched in 1857 and in 1860.

The following are the trade tables of the port for the week and since January 1st:

Imports.			
	1860.	1861.	1862.
Dry goods	\$209,098	227,719	1,517,499
General merchandise	\$253,965	1,108,944	2,736,688
Total for week	\$3,655,812	1,332,763	7,954,187
Previously reported	4,140,651.90	76,391,743	79,985,245
Since Jan. 1st	\$107,567.203	77,730,516	82,719,700
Exports of Produce and Merchandise.			
	1860.	1861.	1862.
Dry goods	\$1,484,177	2,483,821	2,010,280
General merchandise	40,259,474	61,247,638	57,912,276
Previously reported	41,744,731	63,546,589	59,928,756
Since Jan. 1st	\$14,744,731	63,546,589	59,928,756
Exports of Stock.			
	1860.	1861.	1862.
For the week	\$1,417,737	2,470	3,066,462
Previously reported	31,203,265	3,075,445	29,784,762
Since Jan. 1st	\$32,621,000	3,080,424	28,821,224

The bank statement of last Monday showed a specie average of \$31,047,945, being a decrease of \$114,100 from the week previous; a loan average of \$146,839,762, being an increase of \$2,825,412; a deposits average of \$126,844,432, being an increase of \$1,021,047. To-morrow, it is understood that the banks will show a considerable increase of loans and deposits, and notwithstanding the heavy exports of coin, no great change in the specie average. Our banks are converting their legal tender notes as fast as they get them, or, as is preferred at some institutions, depositing them at four per cent. This accounts for the steady increase in their discounts average. The steadiness of the specie reserve shows that the large sums sent abroad do not come out of the bank vaults, or that the banks have resources which are not generally known.

The most remarkable feature of the week, in a financial point of view, has been the scarcity of legal tender notes. Ten days ago they seemed to be plentiful enough, and when the House passed the new Treasury bill some banks and bankers converted \$1,200,000 in a single day. It appears that they swept the market of convertible notes; for until yesterday, when some notes came in from the country, the conversions have been remarkably light ever since. They would have been very large indeed if Mr. Chase had been authorized to take bank notes, or checks on banks. His deposits would probably have averaged much over a million a day, had he not been restricted to government notes, which are almost out of this market at present. What renders this circumstance the more remarkable is the fact that Mr. Chase has set aside \$50,000,000 of these convertible notes—nearly one-half the entire paper currency of the country—as estimated before the rebellion. The whole of these ninety millions have been absorbed in the interior. They are all out in the West, in the East, and in the places we have repossessed at the South, and so much are they needed and so actively employed that there is not in all probability, half a million available, outside of the Sub-Treasury, in this great financial center. To persons who have allowed themselves to be deceived by the clamor of partisans of the old schools in finance, and who are contemplating with anxiety and terror the forthcoming issue of another hundred millions of legal tender notes, this phenomenon must seem perfectly inexplicable. Persons who are less embarrassed by preconceived theories and ancient prejudices can readily explain it by referring to two facts: first, the fact that the aggregate amount of specie and bank currency driven out of circulation by the war amounts, in all probability, to over \$250,000,000—nearly three times as much as the whole of the new currency supplied by government; and secondly, that the war has actually created, for the time, a more active commercial movement in the interior, and a more lively circulation of money, than existed in time of peace.

In the West Mr. Chase's legal tender notes are so universally and decidedly preferred to the bank issues which have been the ordinary currency of that region that they are, in some places, held at a small premium already. In passing upon Mr. Stevens bill for a further issue of \$150,000,000, the Senate will do well to consider the possibility of this premium becoming established everywhere. The new \$100,000,000—like the \$50,000,000 now issued—will be convertible into 5-20 bonds, bearing six per cent interest. In the event of the suppression of the rebellion, and the restoration of peace and prosperity, these bonds will undoubtedly sell at a premium. The consequence is inevitable that the notes which are interchangeable for them will also rise to the same premium. The moment they do, they will be withdrawn from circulation. This contingency would lead to two embarrassing results. In the first place, it would cause great embarrassment in business from the want of currency; and secondly, it would cause the withdrawal from the Sub-Treasury of all the deposits at four and five per cent. Whether the danger should be guarded against by empowering the Secretary of the Treasury, in the event of a run upon his deposits for the sake of the premium upon legal tender notes, to issue enough notes to redeem his pledge to his depositors, or whether the new notes should only be convertible after a given period of time, are questions which deserve the careful attention of the Senate.

Money was more active last week, as is usually the case at this season. As the close of the fiscal year approaches many sums of money belonging to companies and corporations, and held here for the payment of July interest and dividends, are called in from the hands of parties who have held them on temporary loan. The money market is always more or less stringent about the 1st of January and the 1st of July; in the course of a week or so after these dates money is generally abundant enough. We quote call loans 5 1/2 per cent; paper, very scarce, 5 for the highest grades, and 6 1/2 for ordinary mercantile notes; certificates of indebtedness, 100 a 100 1/2; green backs, 104 1/2.

Foreign exchange rose higher last week than it has been since 1857. Sterling was sold at 12 1/2, and francs at 4 1/2. The closing rates were 120 a 120 1/2 for sterling, and 4 1/2 a 4 1/2 for francs. Gold rose to 100 1/2 on Friday, but closed in large supply at 100 1/2. The advance in gold and bills is due mainly to the operations of bankers in American stocks. For a year past systematic efforts have been made by the leading newspapers in England, and by some continental journals, to depreciate American securities and break down American credit. It has been supposed here that these attacks on our finances and our stocks were mere outbursts of idle malignity. There now seems to be good reason to believe that they were prompted by a more substantial, though not more worthy, motive. A number of bankers, among whom the house of Messrs. George Peabody & Company is prominently mentioned, have been quietly availing themselves of the panic in American securities created by these newspaper articles to buy up our stocks from foreign holders at low prices, and send them here for sale. These operators have had one advantage—they have had a splendid market to sell on. But, in another point of view, they have been unfortunate. They have sold their stocks at a period when we had nothing to export but gold, and the demand for gold which their operations have created has caused the precious metal to rise to 8 a 9 per cent premium. This premium, which they are compelled to pay in order to obtain the proceeds of their exports of stocks to this country, will make a serious hole in the profit on their operations. So far as the public interests are concerned, we see no ground for alarm, in the present state of the bullion and exchange markets. In ordinary times we have been in the habit of shipping gold freely to Europe at par; we are now shipping it at 8 a 9 per cent premium. No one thinks of regretting an advance of 8 a 9 per cent in the price of our other staple exports, such as provisions or breadstuffs; neither is the advance in the price of gold a misfortune—so far as our foreign trade is concerned. Again, what we have been in the habit of getting for our gold has been British manufactures, French wines and fancy goods and the like. We are now getting our own obligations—the best possible investment for our money. With regard to the future of the gold and exchange markets, everything depends on the trade in American stocks. If foreigners continue to export our stocks freely to this country, the premium on gold will be maintained, and perhaps increased, and bills will rise in proportion. If the supply of American stocks from Europe falls off, gold and bills will decline. All the bankers report a diminished supply of stocks by the last steamer. So far as our regular foreign trade and our domestic commerce are concerned, they warrant no premium on gold. No one here is hoarding except a few Wall street speculators. No one in this country, except a few foreign merchants, who are in the wrong place here, has the least apprehensions regarding the soundness of our national currency. There has been, and there probably always will be, some speculation in gold in Wall street. That locality is so unfortunate as to contain a few men who would not scruple to ruin the public credit for the sake of making a few dollars. It is due to truth to say that the leading men of the street have steadily resisted an advance in the precious metal. But there are others who have not only operated so as to depreciate the currency, but have not blushed to fill the street with loud predictions of an enormous premium on gold, and with lying reports of sales at fabulous rates. The event will probably soon enable the public to gauge these alarmists at their true value. On Tuesday next some \$6,000,000 a \$7,000,000 of gold will begin to be disbursed for interest on national and other debts. At the same time it is understood that some large amounts, which have been held on speculation, may shortly be expected to come on the market. If there be the least check in the foreign demand gold and bills will fall as quickly as they rose. There is no home demand for the precious metal; and the supply is increasing daily.

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